(b) if so, what is the purpose of this Commission ; and

(c) whether this Commission would also look into the working of the Supreme Court and High Courts in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) The Government intend to set up a high-level Judicial Commission for the appointment of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and for the transfer of Judges from one High Court to another.

(c) No, Sir.

Case against Reliance Group of Companies

298. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of FIANANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a case is under investigation with Collector of Customs, Bombay against the Reliance Group of Companies for having imported extra spinnning units for its synthetic yarn mills ;

(b) whether the Collector of Customs, Bombay imposed a fine totalling Rs. 120 crore against the group of companies ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the case has been reopened recently ; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) to (e) The matter relating *inter alia* to alleged import of extra spinning machine lines by M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. was investigated by Bombay Customs House. Thereafter a Show-Cause Notice issued on 10-2-87 to the Company alleging evasion of duty of Rs. 119.64 crores of which import of extra Machine Lines was included as one of the charges.

The above Show-Cause Notice was adjudicated by Collector of Customs, Bombay who in his adjudication orders dated 31-1-89 read with corrigendum dated 28-2-89 dropped the charges made in the Show-Cause Notice.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 129(D)(1) of the Customs Act, 1962, the Central Board of Excise & Customs (C.B. E.C.) called for and examined the records of proceedings leading to the said orders dated 31-1-89 read with orders dated 28-2-89 of Collector of Customs for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality and propriety of such decision and, in its Order No. 62/R-89 dated 29-12-89, directed Collector of Customs to apply to the Appellate Tribunal for determination of points as specified in the orders of the Board. In pursuance of the said Order dated 29-12-89, Collector of Customs, Bombay made an application to the Appellate Tribunal and it was filed on 17-1-1990.

Alleged Role of Bank of Baroda FIscal Services in Acquiring Larsen and Toubro Equity

299. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged

role of Bank of Baroda Fiscal Services in acquiring Larsen and Toubro Equity on its account and subsequently transferring them to investment companies belonging to a certain industrial group ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In response to a request from BOB Fiscal Services Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda), UTI, LIC and GIC had in August-September, 1988 offered them a basket of blue chip equity shares including 39 lakh shares of L&T which was accepted by BOB Fiscal at the market rates prevailing on the date of purchase. BOB Fiscal have intimated that they did not Transfer these shares directly to any investment company of any industrial group.

The matter is *subjudice* and is pending before the Supreme Court. Meanwhile Chairman and Managing Director of the Bank of Baroda has proceeded on leave.

Execution of Narmada and Sardar Sarovar Projects

300. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to the construction of the inter-State Narmada and Sardar Sarovar projects ;

(b) whether there have been agitations by environmentalists against the execution of these projects in the recent past ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) Construction works on the dam canals and power house of the Sardar Sarover Project are in progress. For Narmada Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh preconstruction works like approach roads, diversion of railway line, colony, office buildings and excavations for the diversion tunnel, main dam and power house are in progress.

(b) and (c) There are some protests against the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project and the Narmada Sagar Project doubting thier economic, social viability and expressing concerns about environment and displacement of population. These issues have already been gone into by Government before granting approval to these projects. Further two sub-groups of the Narmada Control Authority have been entrusted with the task of ensuring the implementation of environmental safeguards including compensatory afforestation, catchment area treatment and satisfactory resettlement of the oustees.

Outstanding Farm Loans

301. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of farm loans to be recovered under various categories like crop loans, medium term loan and rescheduled loans as standing due on 31st December, 1989 ; and

(b) whether any consultation has taken place with R.B.I. and the State Government to reduce the gors of such loans?